

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8138

INFO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 9063

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD CH

SUBJ: THIRD COUNTRY REPRESENTATION AT CANTON TRADE FAIR

REF: A. STATE 178583, B. PEKING 1006, C. HK 8978

D. STATE 172473

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION SUPPLEMENTS THAT ON THIRD COUNTRY EMBASSY/CONSULAR REPRESENTATION AT THE CANTON TRADE FAIRS CONTAINED IN REF B. CONGEN OBTAINED THIS INFORMATION FROM LOCAL CONSULATE SOURCES.

1. JAPAN--ALTOGETHER EIGHT OFFICERS FROM THE HK JAPANESE CONSULATE ATTENDED THE 1973 SPRING FAIR. IN ADDITION TO TWO ECONOMIC OFFICERS WHO ATTENDED THE FAIR AS OBSERVERS, SIX OTHER OFFICERS USED THE FAIR AS A REASON TO TRAVEL TO CANTON AND SPEND THEIR TIME VISITING NEIGHBORING FACTORIES AND COMMUNES. JAPAN'S EMBASSY IN PEKING SENT FOUR OFFICERS WHO EACH SPENT A COUPLE OF DAYS AT THE FAIR AND THEN WENT ON FACTORY AND COMMUNE VISITS. IN ALL CASES THE JAPANESE OFFICERS SEPARATELY SPENT FIVE OR SIX DAYS IN CANTON. AT THE SPRING FAIR THESE OFFICERS WERE SUPPLEMENTED BY TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE PEKING MEMORANDUM TRADE OFFICE (MTO). ALTHOUGH MTO REPRESENTATIVES MAY ATTEND THE FAIR THIS FALL, MTO FUNCTIONS WILL BE ASSUMED BY THE JAPANESE EMBASSY

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WITH THE EXPIRATION OF THE MT AGREEMENT LATER THIS YEAR.

2. UK--BRITISH REPRESENTATION AT THE FAIR IS GENERALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN TWO OFFICERS FROM THE HK TRADE COMMISSION AND TWO OFFICERS FROM PEKING WHO SEPARATELY SPEND ABOUT A WEEK IN CANTON. OFFICERS FROM PEKING ATTEND THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE FAIR FOR PROTOCOL PURPOSES.

3. CANADA--TRADITIONALLY CANADIAN REPRESENTATION HAS BEEN DIVIDED BETWEEN TWO OFFICERS FROM EACH MISSION WHO SEPARATELY SPEND ONE WEEK AT THE FAIR. IN SPRING 1973, HOWEVER, TWO OFFICERS FROM HK AND ONLY ONE FROM PEKING ATTENDED. THE SPRING 1973 FAIR WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY AN OFFICIAL FROM THE "CHINA TASK FORCE" OF THE CANADIAN MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE WHO BRIEFLY VISITED THE FAIR ON HIS WAY BACK TO OTTAWA FROM PEKING.

4. FRG-HK GERMAN CONSULATE GIVES LITTLE PRIORITY TO THE FAIR WHICH IS USUALLY ATTENDED SEPARATELY BY TWO OFFICERS FOR FOUR WORKING DAYS EACH. IN ADDITION, AN OFFICER FROM PEKING ALSO ATTENDS THE OPENING OF THE FAIR AND REMAINS FOR ABOUT FOUR DAYS. ALTHOUGH AN OFFICIAL OF THE FRG MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS ATTENDED THE SPRING 1972 FAIR, THE VISIT WAS MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NORMALIZATION OF SINO-GERMAN RELATIONS AND WILL NOT BE REPEATED.

5. FRANCE--REPRESENTATION IS PROVIDED BY THE PEKING EMBASSY COMMERCIAL OFFICER AND HIS ASSISTANT WHO EACH VISITS THE FAIR SEPARATELY FOR LESS THAN A WEEK. THE FRENCH TRADE COMMISSIONER IN HONG KONG HAS ATTENDED EVERY OTHER FAIR BRIEFLY FOR INFORMAL OBSERVATION.
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